

**Thursday, October 09, 2008**

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FROM THE COEUR D'ALENE PRESS

**Cd'A may consolidate IB program**

Posted: Wednesday, Oct 08, 2008 - 11:15:13 pm PDT

JEROME A. POLLOS/Press

Annalise McInelly, 16, sits in on an art class Wednesday at Coeur d'Alene High School.

By MAUREEN DOLAN

Staff writer

District would have to decide at which high school to continue courses

COEUR d'ALENE -- The Coeur d'Alene School District may soon have just one high school that can claim to be an International Baccalaureate World School.

Superintendent Hazel Bauman announced this week that the district is considering consolidating the program now offered at Lake City High School and Coeur d'Alene High School at one of the schools.

"I believe that at the school that ends up with the International Baccalaureate program, the program will be more robust," Bauman said.

But the main reasons for consolidation, she said, are to save money while offering a choice to students.

The plan is to reinstitute Advanced Placement classes at the school that no longer offers IB so each high school would still offer a "strong college prep, academic" option.

Regardless of where they live in the district, students will be able to enroll at the high school offering the advanced program of their choice.

Before the district decides which school that will be, Bauman will spend the next few weeks talking to parents, teachers and students so their thoughts and views can be considered in the decision-making process.

The district will hold a community forum aimed at parents of future and current IB students Oct. 14 at 7 p.m. at the Midtown Meeting Center, 1505 N. Fifth Street.

She will also speak with IB teachers, administrators and students at both schools for input before making a recommendation to the board in November.

"This is not without some angst because there are definately students, parents, teachers who are enjoying the International Baccalaureate program in both schools, so no matter which school ends up being the IB school, I think we'll see a little bit of a sense of loss in the school that does not get it," Bauman said.

Deanne Clifford, vice principal at Lake City, agreed it would be hard to see IB pulled from her school.

She said the teachers and counselors have worked hard at integrating the program to make Lake City "a great IB school."

"I think it's a good thing that the superintendent is going to be listening to students and teachers," said Lake City High School vice principal Deanne Clifford. "I love that. That's what Hazel Bauman does. She listens."

This school year, there are 187 IB students at CHS and 288 at LCHS.

The IB program, an internationally recognized advanced curriculum offered to juniors and seniors, was launched at both schools in 2006.

Bauman presented the consolidation concept to trustees at Monday's board meeting.

"There is a substantial amount of data that in my mind indicates two things, one, that it's very expensive to have International Baccalaureate at both schools and two, there are many classes that I call under-subscribed where a very few number of students are attending at Lake City and very few at Coeur d'Alene," Bauman said.

She said the situation could be remedied if the classes were all offered at one school.

Both the AP and IB programs target highly motivated high school students who want to excel academically.

Students who take AP and IB classes can earn college credit and success in the programs is considered predictive of college success.

There are philosophical differences with the programs.

While AP coursework focuses mainly on content knowledge, the IB program is an integrated approach to learning with an emphasis on meeting the challenges of living and working in a global, technological society.

Only schools authorized by the International Baccalaureate organization as IB World Schools can offer the IB program.

There is just one other IB World School in Idaho, Riverstone International School, a private school in Boise.

The initial authorization process takes about two years and was initiated in Coeur d'Alene during the 2004-05 school year.

The district's cost to go through the authorization process and run the program for the first year in 2006-07, including subscription fees, costs for materials and fees for teacher and staff training, has been roughly \$300,000.

Bauman said the annual cost after authorization to run the program, nearly \$29,000, will be greatly reduced by moving it to one school.

She said while the AP program does not charge the kinds of program fees billed by the IB organization, there are other expenses to reinstitute the AP program at one of the schools.

"The big cost will be the teacher training piece," Bauman said.

Because the program is offered throughout a student's junior and senior years, Bauman said the IB program will be phased out at one of the schools over a two-year period.

Whichever school does not get the IB program would still offer it for one last year so the seniors who are now junior IB students can complete their IB classes at that school.

#### FROM THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

**No new education news stories posted online today.**

#### FROM THE MOSCOW PULLMAN DAILY NEWS (PASSWORD REQUIRED)

##### **Students, parents stroll to school**

All four of Moscow's elementary schools take part in International Walk to School Day  
By Halley Griffin, Daily News staff writer

Posted on: Wednesday, October 08, 2008

Dean Hare/Daily News

Nicole Konen doesn't live close enough to walk her children to McDonald Elementary School, but she compromised on International Walk to School Day.

She drove closer to the school Wednesday and parked so that she and her children could finish the route on foot.

Konen said it's easy to use distance as an excuse not to walk, but she thinks the spirit of the day is too important to skip.

"I think it's really important that we stay active and set an example for all kids to stay active," she said.

Plus, her children were too excited to miss it.

"They actually encouraged me to do it," she said.

The Moscow School District's participation in International Walk to School Day is part of a joint effort between the city of Moscow and the University of Idaho.

The city and the UI both received grants from the National Center for Safe Routes to School to apply to infrastructure (like sidewalks) and noninfrastructure (incentives for walking) costs of improving safe walking routes.

Moscow Grants Coordinator Alisa Stone said Moscow is in its second year of the Safe Routes to School program.

Last year, the program focused on Lena Whitmore Elementary School, and this year it has been expanded to all four public elementary schools.

UI College of Education faculty member Helen Brown said the program's funding is temporary, so the goal is to get the Safe Routes to School program going in the Moscow School District so parents and teachers can continue with it.

"Our goal is to create a sustainable program," Stone said.

Stone said increasing the number of students who walk to school has many benefits. It helps the city do what it can to address the national issue with childhood obesity, and reduces the city's carbon footprint.

McDonald Elementary School fourth-grader Bryn Navarrete walked to school with her second-grade brother, Jacob. She said she'd like to walk to school more often.

"It actually helps the environment because gas can pollute the environment," she said.

Increasing the number of students who walk to school also could reduce morning traffic congestion, a large portion of which is created by parents driving their children to school, she said.

Brown said the spirit of International Walk to School Day is more important than the number of people walking all the way from their homes, which is why parents like Konen were encouraged to drive and park within walking distance.

"It's just about people really being intentional about not getting in their cars today," Brown said.

Stone and Brown concentrated on increasing the number of students and parents who participate in International Walk to School Day.

Volunteers at each of the four elementary schools passed out stickers and congratulated students who arrived on foot.

West Park and Russell elementary schools offered breakfast for walking students and their parents.

McDonald Elementary School first-grader Clara Flowers said she was excited to walk "because there's prizes."

Stone said safety also is a big part of encouraging walking to school, and the Moscow Police Department assisted with extra patrols.

West Park Elementary School Principal William Marineau said volunteers patrolled the streets around the school to congratulate students as well as watch out for their safety.

### **OUR VIEW: Civic involvement goes beyond elections (Editorial)**

Posted on: Wednesday, October 08, 2008

A few University of Idaho student leaders want students to become more active in Moscow politics.

To that end, Associated Students of the University of Idaho senators created a Civic Engagement Task Force.

The task force is sponsoring voter registration drives and hopes to create a collaboration between ASUI and the Moscow City Council.

This is an idea worth pursuing.

A similar plan in Pullman has students and the City Council meeting twice a year to discuss a number of concerns including hot-button topics like College Hill.

In Moscow, walkability is an issue, especially in light of recent events involving accidents at crosswalks.

"I know there are a lot of students who are really worried about crossing Third Street," ASUI Sen. Ian Harpole said. "That's an example of something that we could maybe work together with the city on, because it really affects us both."

For its part, Moscow is looking at ways to add student representation to the various city commissions. Also an excellent idea.

However, nothing is really new.

Students, like any residents of Moscow, are welcome to participate as local voters and to offer input at City Council meetings and public hearings. A few have even stood for election to the council.

We want to see the City Council encourage student participation and what UI students will bring to the table.

We also want to see that involvement go beyond next month's election. That is when a commitment to civil involvement evolves.

Bridging the town-gown gap is no easy process. If it were, that gap wouldn't exist on most U.S. campuses.

Treating interested students as equals in the political process is a good first step on the bridge, but it's up to the students to stay committed and involved.

- Murf Raquet, for the editorial board

#### FROM THE LEWISTON TRIBUNE (PASSWORD REQUIRED)

##### **Ed board may OK building purchase**

LCSC hopes to buy residential part of Clearwater Hall in Lewiston

By Joel Mills

Thursday, October 9, 2008

Lewis-Clark State College may get the go-ahead today from the State Board of Education to buy the residential part of Clearwater Hall, its privately owned downtown dorm.

Chet Herbst, LCSC's financial vice president, said months of negotiations with building owners College Town Development Idaho have led to a \$3.7 million price, not including empty ground-floor retail space.

In April, the board authorized LCSC to offer up to \$3.8 million to buy the upper three floors of Clearwater Hall, pending an appraisal. But negotiations bogged down when CTDI - formerly known as ConoverBond - wanted LCSC to buy the whole building.

One appraisal came in at just less than \$3 million, Herbst said.

"We made another offer to the owners based on that low appraisal, and then they came back with counteroffers," Herbst said. "So, as part of the negotiation process, now we're at \$3.7 (million)."

According to officials, LCSC would go into debt to buy the building, and repay bonds with revenue generated by its operation.

CTDI wanted to unload its entire investment because the retail space has been vacant since the building opened in 2006.

The board spurred the creation of Clearwater Hall and another privately owned, LCSC-operated dorm called College Place in 2005. Wary of allowing the college to incur debt to build its own student housing, board members encouraged the college to seek proposals from private developers.

But while College Place - which is adjacent to LCSC's Normal Hill campus - has been successful, Clearwater Hall has had problems. Many of its rooms sat vacant for its first semester, although there is now a waiting list of students who want to live there, according to the college.

The biggest issue has been a lack of interest in the retail space, however. And even though LCSC has been unwilling to invest in that portion of the building, that could change, Herbst said.

"Later on, it's conceivable that they may ask us to make an offer for the bottom too," he said.

Herbst has said the college could use the space for offices.

The board meeting starts at 8 a.m. at the Williams Conference Center on the west side of the LCSC campus.

### **Teacher evaluation task force schedules public meetings**

Plan would allow each district to tailor standards to meet its needs

Tribune

Thursday, October 9, 2008

The Idaho Teacher Performance Evaluation Task Force will host a meeting from 5:30 to 7 tonight at the Lewis-Clark State College Library to present its recommendations on statewide minimum standards on how teachers are evaluated.



With support from the Idaho Legislature and Gov. C.L. (Butch) Otter, Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Luna created the Teacher Performance Evaluation Task Force in May 2008 to develop statewide minimum standards.

The task force includes representatives from all major stakeholder groups in education, including teachers, principals, superintendents, school board members, parents, business representatives and legislators.

"The members of this task force have worked tirelessly over the past five months to create this plan, and I encourage Idaho teachers, school administrators, parents and other citizens to join us for these regional public meetings where they can hear the proposal and provide feedback," Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Luna said in a news release.

Under proposed minimum standards, teachers across the state would be evaluated on planning and preparation, learning environment, instruction and use of assessment and professional responsibilities.

If the minimum standards are approved, each Idaho school district and charter school will be able to create its own evaluation tool that meets the needs of that district while still aligned to statewide standards.

Staff from the State Department of Education and task force members will present initial recommendations at the public meeting. Teachers, parents, school administrators and the general public can ask questions and give feedback on how the plan could be improved. The task force will meet again in November to take the public comments into consideration before finalizing a proposal to submit to the Idaho Legislature in January 2009.

The proposal is available online at [www.sde.idaho.gov/site/teacherEval/](http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/teacherEval/).

#### FROM THE IDAHO-PRESS TRIBUNE, NAMPA

##### **‘Walking school buses’ promote safety**

Alisa Angelakis

[aangelakis@idahopress.com](mailto:aangelakis@idahopress.com)

Updated 10 hours 17 minutes ago

NAMPA — About 450 Ronald Reagan Elementary students participated in International Walk to School Day Wednesday as part of Nampa’s first Safe Routes to Schools project.

Parent volunteers and teachers wore bright green bandannas while walking the children to school with the help of police escorts, the school’s roadrunner mascot Speedy and McGruff the crime dog.

Kenzie Clements, a third-grader, said she had ridden her bike to school before but never walked.

“It was really fun, but cold,” she said.

Kenzie’s brother, Josh, and her mother, Jennifer, walked with her.

Jennifer helped supervise the “walking buses” and said it was a neat idea.

“We picked up some kids along the way,” she said. “It was cool; just like a bus route.”

She also expressed concern about the lack of sidewalks and some narrow streets.

“Some days there are kids just scattered all over, not on the correct side of the road,” she said. “It was neat that we could walk through the neighborhoods and teach the kids the proper route to stay off the street.”

Janet Moulton walked 1.2 miles in a walking school bus with her twin daughters. She said the event was well-organized.

“I thought it might be chaotic, but they did a fantastic job,” she said. “It was so much fun; the kids loved it.”

Ronald Reagan Elementary Principal Shawn Tegethoff said she would like to see more schools with walking school buses.

Tegethoff said Reagan’s routes and volunteers are being organized and she expects daily walking buses to operate within a couple of months.

“It gives that old-fashioned feel of walking to school in this day and age, in a safe way,” she said. “And it’s a perfect setup when your school’s right in the middle of a subdivision.”

Tegethoff said a large group of volunteers made the walking buses possible.

“We have a very strong PTA and 300 volunteers. They’re wonderful.”

#### FROM THE IDAHO STATESMAN

#### **Students participate in Walk to School Day**

- STATESMAN STAFF

Edition Date: 10/09/08

Students from Meridian Elementary School, 1035 N.W. 1st St., took part in the International Walk to School Day Wednesday.

Some students walked several blocks to school from Generations Plaza in downtown Meridian accompanied by city and school leaders, representatives from St. Luke's Boise/Meridian, Safe Kids Treasure Valley and FedEx employees.

"Pedestrian safety is a concern in our community, and our hope is that we can teach children to be safer pedestrians in a way they will remember for years to come," said Alissa Lean, Safe Kids Treasure Valley coordinator.

#### FROM THE TWIN FALLS TIMES-NEWS

### **Ninth-graders learn about nature at Rock Creek Park**

By Ben Botkin  
Times-News writer

Ninth-grade students wandered about Rock Creek Park in Twin Falls on Tuesday, gathering soil samples and testing the water that flowed through the area.

For the day, the students had escaped the classroom confines of Vera C. O'Leary Junior High School in Twin Falls for a field trip that provided learning opportunities about science in an outdoor, natural environment. Students went to different stations set up throughout the park with different tasks to complete in a varied approach that included multiple subjects like science, vocabulary and writing.

At one station, for example, students did tests to see how much dissolved oxygen was in the creek water. They put water in vials and added chemicals, also recording the temperature.

"For us in science, we want to examine the health of Rock Creek," said Jo Dodds, a science teacher working with the students.

At another station, teacher Steven Gardner helped students do a test for how much electricity could flow through the water with a probe that took measurements.

Before the work, he asked for help and a couple students trotted off to fetch water from the creek.

Laura Corder, a science teacher, had students test water for nitrates and phosphates.

"This field trip is as hands-on as you can get," she said, adding that the experience helps students see the world outside the classroom. "They realize they are part of this community that is taking care of a park."

The field trip wasn't limited to science tests, though.

Reading teacher Vicki Larsen gave the students a task of decoding scientific words and looking at their prefixes, roots and suffixes. Their assignment for after the field trip: start a science fiction story using the decoded words.

Blaine Campbell, an agriculture science instructor, helps students take soil samples near the creek and further away to show the difference in how soil changes with nearby water.

Marcus Gardoski, 14, pushed a soil probe into the ground to collect a sample.

"It's harder than I thought," he said, adding that the soil work was one of his favorite parts of the trip. "It teaches you the interesting things about soil you didn't know."

He said the field trip is a lot different from learning in a classroom.

"In school, you don't really get to come out here and do this kind of stuff," he said. "It teaches you more about the environment."

Michael Amador, 14, said he enjoyed a session that taught students about nature writing and looking for sounds and smells when outdoors. When people are quiet, a lot more gets noticed, he said.

"I never noticed that there were still birds out here," he said.

## **Dual credit course enrollment grows**

By Ben Botkin

Times-News writer

Not every student at the College of Southern Idaho attends class on campus.

A growing number of CSI students are taking college courses at their high school. Dual credit courses allow high school students to take college courses in a variety of subjects and have college credits in place before they even graduate.

Enrollment in dual credit courses through CSI has hit a high this semester. There are now 1,579 students enrolled in the courses. Last year, the college had 1,446 dual credit students in its fall semester.

"Over the last two years, we've seen a dramatic increase," said John Miller, the instructional dean overseeing off-campus education.

Besides providing a jump-start on college, the dual credit courses are also less costly than traditional college courses. A dual credit course costs \$65 per credit hour, compared to \$95 per credit hour for students taking classes at CSI.

That savings also adds to the popularity of dual credit courses, Miller said, adding that high school students enrolled in the course make up about one-fifth of the college's student body.

Historically, there's been growth during the last few years, too. In 2004, there were about 750 dual credit students, a figure that's doubled since then, Miller said.

High school educators agree that interest is high in dual credit courses.

"It's pretty popular," said Dan Rogers, principal of Minico High School in Rupert.

At Minico, some students have taken enough dual credit coursework to graduate with an associate's degree before receiving their high school diploma, he said.

At Declo High School, officials added a history course to the lineup of dual credit courses that already includes English, algebra and vocational courses, Principal Roland Bott said, adding that at least a third of students are taking the courses.

He said students see the potential of dual credit courses for providing a way to get ahead on their college coursework.

Ben Botkin may be reached at 208-735-3238 or bbotkin@magicvalley.com.

## FROM THE IDAHO STATE JOURNAL (PASSWORD REQUIRED)

### **A teacher with flair**

Steve Shropshire loves sharing his knowledge with his students

BY DEBBIE BRYCE  
dbryce@journalnet.com

POCATELLO — Steve Shropshire, a physics professor at Idaho State University, is carrying on a family tradition — his parents were both high school teachers.

But Shropshire admits that he completely disregarded advice handed down to him by his father.

"My dad said, "Son, don't go into teaching, it's a thankless job. But if you do, don't do it in Idaho, you won't make any money and they won't appreciate you," Shropshire said.

He's been at ISU for 17 years now and was recently awarded the American Association of Physics Teachers Distinguished Service Citation for exemplary efforts in physics education. The award was announced in the October issue of Physics Teacher magazine.

Shropshire, who's well known locally isj  
Global Nuclear Energy Partnership, serving teachers from across the United States.

The teaching center he developed at ISU is the largest of 54 similar centers nationwide. He's chaired several national committees on science education and is nationally known for his expertise in science demonstrations.

Originally from Boise, Shropshire earned his Ph.D. from Washington State University in Pullman, Wash.

He and his wife, Crystal, have been married 20 years and have two children.

When he's not working — which he admits is seldom — he enjoys spending time with his family camping, hiking and horseback riding.

“And we really like to fish,” Shropshire said.

His favorite fishing hole is deep in the Sawtooth Wilderness. “It's a secret, and there are some really big trout there,” he joked. Although teaching might not have been his first career choice, Shropshire has found his niche in Southeast Idaho. “I always enjoy sharing what I think is cool and interesting with other folks,” he said.

FROM THE IDAHO FALLS POST REGISTER (PASSWORD REQUIRED)

**No new education news stories posted online today.**